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**PATENT**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**BEFORE THE PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Application of:

Applicant: Paul S. Prevey III

Serial No.: 09/516,327

Filed: March 1, 2000

Art Unit: 2855

Docket: LRI-004PAT

Examiner: Lilybett Martir

Title: **METHOD FOR REDUCING RESIDUAL STRESS ZONES IN THE SURFACE OF A PART**

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION**  
**DATED DECEMBER 26, 2002**

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing zones of high tensile stress in the surface of a part comprising the steps of:

selecting a region of the part to be treated; and

exerting a variable pressure against the surface of the selected region, the pressure being applied such that the magnitude of compression decreases in the direction towards the boundaries of the selected region to minimize the effects of any tensile stress zones near the boundaries.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 1, 2003.

  
Mark F. Smith

LRI-004PAT

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